ABSTRACT
OF THE
PROCEEDINGS
TO PREVENT
EXPORTATION
OF
WOOLL
Unmanufactured

From the YEAR 1667, to this present Year 1688.

In which all Persons concerned may be Satisfied, of the [illegible] Diligence, and Labour has been taken [illegible]

By *William Carter* Clothier.

LONDON, Printed by *J Streater*, for the Author *Anno Dom.* 1688.

To all Ingenious Persons, who Heartily Desire, to Prevent *Transportation of* WOOLL.

THe following Account gives a Relation of some part of my Proceedings, occasioned upon two Considerations.

1d. *The taking off Unjust and Malitious Reflections cast upon me.*

2d. *Concerning the little Encouragement I have received in my Prosecutions, for the King and Kingdoms Good.*

I will not here Insist upon particulars, but wholly submit my self to the Judgement and Opinion of the Reader, upon perusing, and deliberately considering of the Matter contained in the ensuing Discourse.

It is somewhat hard that such a Burthen should lie upon one Man, who is not only to Answer Objections made by the Common Enemy, but also to make an Apology to those who are more Immediately concerned; besides the [illegible] Pains and Expences of daily Solicitations, and frequent long Journeys, with [illegible] from the Court.

Nevertheless I shall not be sparing of my utmost Endeavours and Pains for Carrying on so Publick and Great a Work, and doubt not but in a short time to demonstrate how all the Nation, from his Majesty, to the meanest Tradesman are more or less concerned and influenced by the Illegal and unsufferable Exportation of Woll, out of these Kingdoms.

W. Carter.

54.f.7

THE PROCEEDINGS

Of William Carter Against TRANSPORTATION OF WOOLL.

WHereas divers Merchants, Clothiers, and Factors, upon consideration of the great detriment that accrued to this Kingdom, and to the Woollen Trade thereof, in that great quantities of Wooll were transported frequently into *France*, *Holland*, and *Flanders* &c. did desire and encourage me, to endeavour the preventing the same; which being readily willing to undertake, I perceived that tho' there were many severe Laws made against exporting Wooll, and tho' the wisdom of our Ancestors found also mischeivous and destructive to this Kingdom, as to make the Offence Capital; notwithstanding either by the wilful corruption, or gross neglect of Officers, great quantities of Wooll were clandestinely exported, by those who, for a little private gain to themselves, dare venture their Necks, to ruin the Trade of a Nation.

Applying my self therefore cheerfully to so necessary a Work in *August* 1667, I made a discovery of twelve *French* Shallops loaded in one Night, from *Romney*-Marsh in *Kent*, with considerable quantities of Wooll, and some time afterwards, I caused a quantity of Wooll, to be seized as it was carrying on the Beach, near *Clowes* Point in the said *Marsh*, in order to be shipped on board some Shallops, that lay in *Rye* Harbour.

Tho' discovered great quantities of Wooll, [illegible] though in that Kingdom, the exportation thereof be also prohibited, [illegible] the same by Licence be exported into *England*.

At the next Parliament, in *November* 1667, I presented the [illegible] of Wooll, and the National Dangers thereof, to the House of Commons, which being [illegible] consider of, that Committee [illegible] to be, that under colour of Licence [illegible] Packs of Wooll, several thousand Packs [illegible] which the said Committee made an Address [illegible] the apparent frauds practised therein, which [illegible]

After the adjournment of that Parliament, [illegible] finding the Wooll-exporters, by their [illegible] Wooll openly in the day time, with [illegible] oned his said Majestie for a party of [illegible] erme at Sea, to prevent these exportations [illegible] cotans, and by my attendance, so [illegible] times two Servants, did prevent the [illegible] Summer from the said Marsh, and by that means was bought up by [illegible] which the Year before was most of it Exported.

In *September* 1668, I presented some proposals to the said [illegible] in order to prevent the said exportations, which were referred the 20th [illegible] cil, of Trade, with this particular Order (*Viz.*) "To [illegible] "form your selves by what ways and practices the Wooll [illegible] "embessed, and sent away into foreign parts, [illegible] "inspection in *England* or elsewhere, [illegible] "end that nothing of care or watch may be omitted, but that all [illegible] "be taken, that an evil, so mischeivous and inconvenient, may be [illegible]

When

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Nevertheless I shall not be sparing of my utmost Endeavours and Pains for Carrying on so Publick and General a Good: and doubt not but in a short time to demonstrate how all the Nation, from his Majesty, to the meaneſt Tradseman, are more or less concerned and influenced by the Fatal and mischievous Exportation of Wooll, out of these Kingdoms.

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54 7

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WHereas divers Merchants, Clothiers and Factors, upon conſideration of the great detriment that accrued to this Kingdom, and to the Woollen Trade thereof, in that great quantities of Wooll were tranſported frequently into *France*, *Holland*, and *Flanders* &c. did deſire and encourage me, to endevour the preventing the ſame; which being readily willing to undertake, I perceived that tho' there were many ſevere Laws made againſt exporting Wooll, and tho' the wiſdom of our Anceſters found it ſo miſcheivous and deſtructive to this Kingdom, as to make the Offence Capital; notwithſtanding either by the wilful corruption, or groſs neglect of Officers, great quantities of Wooll were clandeſtinely exported, by thoſe who, for a little private gain to themſelves, dare venture their Necks, to ruin the Trade of a Nation.

Applying my ſelf therefore cheerfully to ſo neceſſary a Work in *Auguſt* 1667, I made a diſcovery of twelve *French* Shallops loaded in one Night, from *Rumney*-Marſh in *Kent*, with conſiderable quantities of Wooll, and ſometime afterwards, I cauſed a quantity of Wooll, to be ſeized as it was carrying on the Beach, near *Camber* Point in the ſaid *Marſh*, in order to be ſhipped on board ſome Shallops, that lay in *Rye* Harbour.

I alſo diſcovered great quantities of Wooll, likewiſe exported beyond Sea out of *Ireland*; although in that Kingdom, the exportation thereof be alſo prohibited, unleſs the ſame by Licence be exported into *England*.

At the next Parliament, in *November* 1667. I preſented the exportation of Wooll, and the National Dangers thereof, to the Houſe of Commons, which being referred to a Committee, to conſider of, they examining of the *Iriſh* exportations, ſoon found the ground of that Miſchief to be, that under colour of a Licence granted by his late Majeſtie, to export ſome hundred Packs of Wooll, ſeveral thouſand Packs were colour'd by that Licence from *Ireland*: Upon which the ſaid Committee made an Addreſs to his ſaid Majeſtie, to revoke the ſaid Licence, for the apparent frauds practiſed therein, which his Majeſtie accordingly did.

After the adjournment of that Parliament, upon the importunity of the ſaid Merchants, and finding the Wooll-exporters, by their impunity grown to ſuch confidence, as to Ship off their Wooll openly in the day time, with armed Men to aſſiſt them, in the doing thereof; I petitioned his ſaid Majeſtie for a party of Horſe to ſcout about *Rumny* Marſh, and ſome Frigats to cruſe at Sea, to prevent thoſe exportations, which by his ſaid Majeſtys Grace and Favour I did obtain, and by my attendance, ſometimes at Sea, and ſometimes at Land, with one and ſometimes two Servants, did prevent the exportation of above one Thouſand Packs of Wooll that Summer from the ſaid Marſh, and by that means was bought up by the Clothiers and Staplers, which the Year before was moſt of it Exported.

In *September* 1668, I preſented ſome propoſals to his ſaid Majeſty in Council, in order to prevent the ſaid exportations, which were referred the 20th of *November* following to the Council, of Trade, with this particular Order, (*Viz.*) "You are very ſtrictly to enquire, and in "form your ſelves by what ways and practiſes the Wooll of this Kingdom comes to be ſtollen, "embeſſled, and ſent away into forreign Parts, contrary to Law; what places (&c.) are moſt "ſuſpected in *England* or elſe where, and who doth buy the ſaid Wooll in thoſe places, to the "end that nothing of care or watch may be omitted, but that all ſuch ſtrict and ſevere courſes "be taken, that an evil, ſo miſcheivous and inconvenient, may be totally prevented.

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When I carryed this Order, with my Propoſals, to the ſaid Council of Trade, they immediatly choſe a ſelect Committee on purpoſe to peruſe them, where I was ordered to attend, which attendance laſted a good part of that Winter; the ſaid Committee ſummoned and heard divers Merchants, Clothiers, Factors, and Staplers, and then made their Report, which was Read before his Majeſty in Council, upon which, an Order was made the 2. of *April* 1669. in theſe words (*viz.*)

Whereas in purſuance of an Order of this Board, of the 20th. *of* November *laſt, referring to the Council of Trade the Propoſals of* William Carter, *for preventing the Exportation of Wooll; the ſaid Council having returned their Report to the Board, that having diſcourſed with the ſaid* Willam Carter, *and ſuch other Perſons, as they thought capable of giving them any good information, touching this matter, they find the Exportation of* Wooll, *is of a deſtructive conſequence to the Trade of this Kingdom, and that the ſame hath grown into practice; as well by reaſon of the doubtfulneſs and proviſions in the Statute made in the* 12th. *year of his Majeſties Reign Prohibiting the Exportation of* Wooll, *as by the neglect and remiſſneſs of Officers, in not putting the Laws in execution*: And therefore propoſed, that the care of that buſineſs, ſhould be eſpecially recommended to the Preſident and Governors of *Chriſts* Hoſpital in *London*, for the ſeveral Reaſons in the ſaid Report, purſuant to which Report, his Majeſtie directed a Commiſſion to paſs under the great Seal of *England* for that purpoſe, to the ſaid Preſedent and Governors; but before the Commiſſon paſt under Seal, I did carry the ſaid Report, and Order upon it to the Preſident and Governors of the ſaid Hoſpital, who immediately cauſed a Court to be called, and upon reading thereof, did accept of that Authority then intended to be given them, upon which I informed the Council of their willingneſs therein, and did then proceed and ſolicite the buſineſs ſo far, as to paſs the Commiſſion at my own charge, under the great Seal, and carried it to the Preſident and Governors, in expectation they would have taken it upon them, as they had agreed, but in ſome ſhort time after they declined the imployment, and returned the Commiſſion back to the King and Council, and plainly refuſed to act therein, upon ſome frivolous objections, without allowing me one penny for the money expended, which was not leſs then 40*l.* beſides my own Labour and Attendance.

The next Seſſion of Parliament, being in the year 1669 Sr. *Orlando Bridgman* the then Lord Keeper, brought into the Houſe of Lords an explainitory Bill for hindring the ſaid Exportation, under ſome new penalties.

Before which time *William Facon* of *Canterbury Wooll*-Comber, and one *Marſh* of *Hoakam* near *Dover* a Farmer, were brought up before the Houſe of Commons for Exporting 44 Packs of Combed *Wooll* from *Canterbury*, where being examined, they were ordred to be tryed at the the next Aſſizes at *Maidſtone* in *Kent*, whereupon I was comanded by his Majeſtie and Council, to proſecute them according to Law, for the ſaid Felony; but when I came to *Maidſtone* I could not hear of any ſuch perſon, there being no Recogniſance taken for their appearing there, nor any Witneſſes attending to prove the Fact, ſo I loſt my Jorney but afterwards I underſtood that he had compounded with his Accuſers, and taken off the Witneſſes, ſo that the Order of the Houſe of Commons, and his Majeſties care therein, proved altogether ineffectual.

About *Auguſt* following in the ſame year 1669, underſtanding that the Late Earl of *Radnor* was deſigned to go Lord Leiytenant for *Ireland*, I petioned his Majeſtie in Council, for ſome care to be taken in preventing the Exportation of Wooll from *Ireland*, who was pleaſed to Order a Letter in Council, recomending the care thereof, to the ſaid Lord Lieytenant, on whome I waited at his departure as far as *St. Albans*, and at my parting with his Excellency there, he promiſed to Act effectually therein, which his Lordſhip did accordingly: In ſo much, that within ſix weeks time after he came to *Ireland*, there were landed at *Minehead*, above one thouſand Packs of *Wooll* more in that time, than had been there landed within the like ſpace of time, in any year before, and the like proportionable at *Liverpool*, *Cheſter*, *Briſtol* and *Barnſtable*, which quantitie of *Wooll* in other years uſed to be Exported out of *Ireland* beyond the Seas, upon pretence of being ſhipt for *England*.

In a ſhort time after, I made a diſcovery of five Veſſels loaden with *Wooll* arived at *Callice* in *France*, one of which belonging to *Dover*, two to *Folkſtone*, and two to *Hythe* in the County of *Kent*, upon which the Lord *Keeper* was ordred by the King in Council, to write a letter to the Mayors of *Dover*, *Folkſtone* and *Hythe*, which was to this effect. Gent-

Gentlemen,

THis bearer William Carter *brings along with him a Copy of an Information, concerning the Tranſportation of* Wooll; *but it being a matter of ſo high Concernment to his Majeſtie and this Kingdom, as ſcarce any thing more, to prevent the Tranſportation of* Wooll, *and the puniſhment of the Offenders: I do earneſtly recommend it to you, to examin the Perſons named in the Information, and to make all the enquiry you can, concerning theſe and ſuch others, as you ſhall have cauſe to ſuſpect to be guilty in this kind, and to certifie what you find herein, that his Majeſtie in Council may give further Orders thereupon, not doubting of your care herein,*

Your Loving Friend

Eſſ. Houſe, *Aug.* 30. 1669.

Orlando Bridgman.

With this Letter I rod Poſt to *Dover*, and having there ſecured one *Thomas Peirce*, a Maſter of one of the ſaid Veſſels; whilſt he was examining before the Mayor, his wife being preſent, and hearing the names read of the other Maſters at *Folkſtone*, and *Hythe* in the Information mentioned, and her Husbands Veſſel then lying at *Folkſtone*, ſhe preſently gets a Horſe and rides thither, and diſcovers the buſineſs there; by which means, when I came to *Folkſtone*, (tho' it was the ſame day) I was fruſtrated of my deſign there, the Mayor and Maſters being all got out of the way before I came, but haſting to *Hythe*, by chance met with one *Mark Spicer*, Maſter of another of the ſaid Veſſels: But before I could find the Mayor of *Hythe*, to examine the ſaid *Spicer*, he made his eſcape towards *Folkſtone*, whether I followed him, and juſt as he came to the Sea ſide, where a Boat lay to receive him, I ſeized him; but the Women of the Town being before alaramed by *Perce*'s Wife (it being all in one day) came out of their Hou es, and gathered up ſtones upon the Beach, which they flung about my ears ſo violently, that having no help, I was forced to quit my Priſoner, hardly eſcaping my ſelfe.

Returning back to *London*, and there being a Council deſigned to meet at *Hampton Court*, I went thither and waited on the Lord *Keeper Bridgman*, to whome I gave an account of my whole Journey, his Lordſhip ordred me to attend while the Council ſate, which I did, and was then called in and related all the ſaid particular paſſages to his Majeſtie, who was pleaſed to command me to go down into *Kent* again, and ordered a party of Horſe to aſſiſt me.

But before the party of Horſe were ready, I received an Information of Ten Thouſand Stones of *Wooll*, Shipt in five Veſſels from *Gallaway* in *Ireland*, and coulorably entred for *Plymouth* and *London*, &c.

I better knowing, than being able to prevent the uſual Frauds practiſed in *Ireland*, where under pretence of getting a Licence from the Lord *Livetenant*, to Ship *Wooll* for *England*, ſometimes double the quantity Licenced was Shipt, and the Law requiring Bonds with ſureties, to be given for landing the *Wooll* Licenced at ſome Port in *England*, ſome times inſufficient Security was taken, and ſo the Bonds were of no effect, ſometimes falſe and counterfeit Certificates were procured out of *England*, in diſcharge of thoſe Bonds, that the *Wooll* was landed in *England*, when in truth it was not, ſometimes thoſe Bonds tho' actualy forfited and detected, yet were eaſily compounded for at low and cheap Rates, and at other times by the corruption of Officers, ſeveral Bonds were compounded for, aſſoon as they were entred into, even before the departure of the Veſſel out of the Port, whereby Offenders were incouraged to break the Laws, by knowing and paying the price of their Puniſhment before they committed the Offence; which miſcheifs being willing to obviate ſo far as I was able, upon diligent enquiring, I had good reaſon to ſuſpect, the ſaid Ten Thouſand Stone of *Wooll* was really deſigned to be Exported beyond the Sea, and not intended either for *Plymouth* or *London*, as was pretended by the Entries.

And thereupon I applyed my ſelf to the then Farmers of his Majeſties Cuſtoms, for an order to ride down into the Southern Ports, to examine what *Wooll* was lately come thither from *Ireland*, to prevent Frauds by counterfit Certificates, which I obtained. Being arrived at *Exetter* with their Order, I underſtood, that one *Blake* an *Iriſh* Man had been lately there, tampering with ſome of the Cuſtom Officers, to get the Form of their uſual Seal, and the Names of the ſaid Officers; upon which I immediatly wrote to my Correſpondent in *Ireland*, who upon my Information found out the ſaid *Blake* at *Galloway*, and diſcovered that he was concerned in all, or moſt of the ſaid five Veſſels, and that he had gotten counterfit Certificates, Importing as if the ſaid Wooll had been really landed in *England*, when it was not, and by that Means was deſigning to get up or diſcharge the ſaid Bonds, but I prevented the doing thereof by examining the *Matter*, and finding that ſome of thoſe Veſſels unloaded their Wooll at *Fluſhen* in *Zeland*, ſome at *Amſterdam*, and one at St. *Ma os* in *France*; of the Truth of which I procured Oaths and Atteſtations, ſome of which are now in my Cuſtody, whereby thoſe falſe Certificates were detected, and the diſcharge of thoſe Bonds prevented.

Afterwards returning to *London*, and diſpatching into *Kent*, according to His *Majeſtie's* Command, the Party of Horſe being then gone before to *Canterbury*, for my Aſſiſtance in *Rumney-Marſh*, we had Notice of a parcel of Wooll, ſecured in a Houſe called *Brokman's Farm*, which ſecuring and the Perſon in whoſe Cuſtody it was, a great Diſcovery by him (of other Exporters) was made and proſecuted, as more fully may appear here after.

☞ Note, *That* William Facon *before mentioned, who had been before the Houſe of Commons*, Anno Dom. 1668, *was brought up to the King and Council, in* Anno Dom. 1669, *and before he could have his Tryal, was privately Compounded with by his Accuſers the ſecond time, tho' the King had expreſſly ordered his Tryal.*

In *September* 1669, the Late King going to meet His Siſter the Princes *Henereta Maria*, at *Dover*, (during His aboad there) going out one day to Sea, and obſerving a Veſſel belonging to Captain *John Steell*, Sergeant to the Admiralty, to out Sail any of His own Pleaſure Boats: Such was the Zeal His *Majeſty* had againſt the Exportation of Wooll, and his Care to prevent it, that He was pleaſed to hire Her on purpoſe for that Service, Commanding the Aſſiſtance of my Advice to the Captain, in Cruiſing about the Coaſt of *Kent*, to prevent the ſaid Exportation, which was ſo ſucceſful, with ſome other Veſſels for ſome time, that together with the Diſcovery before mentioned, both as to *Ireland* and *Kent*, a great ſtop was then put to the ſaid Exportation; which is confirmed in a Letter, afterwards wrote from *Lile*, the 5*th.* of *March* 1671, viz.

Sir.

I Received Yours of the 17th. *&* 27th. *of* February, *under covert, &c. about the Wooll Affair; I have much Reaſon to believe, unleſs ſome are made Examples, there will be continual Abuſe; the Comodity both* Engliſh *and* Iriſh, *Raw and Combed, abound ſo much in theſe Countries, that for that which would yeild, not long ſince* 8 Stivers *and a half* per. *Pound, will yeild now but* 6 *and a half; yet they would be content to give* 15 *rather than want it, for they cannot make abundance of* Fabrik, *viz.* Wollen *Manufacture, without* Engliſh *or* Iriſh *Wooll.*

There is a City not 5 *Leagues from this, called* Tourney, *a Place renowned, for the making of all ſorts of Stockings of Wooll; it's not above* 20 *Years ſince, that they betook themſelves to make the Worſted Hoſe; A Trade, which in my Minority, was conſiderable from* London, *into theſe Countries, and now you may have a Parcel of* Engliſh *Worſted Hoſe* 20 *Years by yours* &c.

It's not above three Years agon, that there was a ſcarcity of Combed Wooll, in this Quarter of the Country, and ſeveral of thoſe Stocking Merchants, came hither to buy ſome; I told them, that ſuch ſcarcity was uſed in England, *that People were mad if they Adventure.*

The

The next Seſſion of *Parliament* 1670, the Houſe of Commons being under the Conſideration of raiſing of *Money* for His *Majeſty*; it was propounded, that Wooll might be Tranſported from *Irland*, paying 2*d*. or 3*d*. Per. *pound* Cuſtom, and 3 reaſons was offered, the anſwer to which; I ſhall now wave tell I come the to proceeding in Parlement in a diſtinct diſcourſe.

The Parliament then adjourning in the year 1671, I ſetled a Correſpondancy in *Irland* and *Flanders*, in order to know, whether the quantities of *Wooll* exported from one was caried to the other, and directed Captain *Steel*, the Owner and Maſter of the Veſſel beforementioned, to ſtear his courſe accordingly, but after this Coreſpondancy was ſetled I was taken ill of a Feavor in *June* 1671 which held me 4 mouthes, and a little time after the ſaid Veſſel was called in, and ſo the Exporters for ſome time had liberty to carry out their *Wooll* without controul.

In *Auguſt* 1671 one *Edward Nichols*, being commited to Newgate dureing my ſickneſs for Tranſporting *Wooll*, and no perſon being willing to proſecute him, was like to be diſcharged upon which I aſſoon as I was recovered did Immediately addreſs my ſelf to his Majeſtie in Council, for the further continuance of the ſaid *Nichols* in Priſon, till he ſhould be diſcharged by Law, and an Order was forthwith granted accordingly. But there aroſe a Queſtian before the King and Council, in what Court he ſhould be tryed, whether by the Admiralty, or by common Law, (the Veſſel being taken with the *Wooll* in the River of *Thames* near *Graves-end*) and it was refer'd to all the Judges to meet and conſider the matter, and afterwards to Report their Opinion to the King, upon which Report, it was debated before the King in the preſence of the ſaid Judges, and the then Judge of the Admiralty, whither the ſaid *Nichols* ſhould be tryed by Common Law or not, and after a long conſultation in the Council, it was Ordered as followeth, (*viz.*)

White Hall *the* 13th. *of* December 1671: *It is this day Ordered by his Majeſtie in Council, that the Recorder of the City of* London *do, and is hereby required, by the beſt wayes he can, ſpeedily to find out in what County that part of the River of* Thames *lyeth, wherein the ſaid* Edward Nichols *was apprehended, for Tranſporting of* Wooll ~~*contrary to Law, and that he Report the ſame*~~ *to the Lord Cheif Juſtice of his Majeſties Court of* Kings Bench; *to the end his Lordſhip may give order for removal of the ſaid Priſoner, to the Goal of the ſaid County, where it ſhall appear he was taken, in order to his Tryal at the next Aſſizes, to be holden for that County.*

But the burthen and care of obſerving this Order, lay cheifly on me: Tho' the Veſſel was in truth taken with the Wooll on board on the *Eſſex* ſhore, and for that reaſon the Priſoner removed to *Chelmsford* Goal, and thence brought to Tryal at *Chelmsford* Aſſizes, yet upon examining the Witneſſes on the Tryal it did appear, that the Priſoner was not ſecured when the Veſſel was Seized, tho' then on Board, but got away out of the Veſſel, and two daies after were taken on Shore at *Graves-end*, upon which the Tryal was Ordered to be at the then next *Maidſtone* Aſſizes, held for the County of *Kent*, which was the 12*th*. of *March* 1671, Whereupon my proſecution, the ſaid *Nichols* was tryed and Convicted of Felony, as afterward will more fully appear: About which time I did alſo diſcover the owner of the Wooll for which *Nichols* was Convict, and cauſed him to be taken into Cuſtody, and unto Tryal alſo; but notwithſtanding, his mony purchaſed ſuch Intreſt, that he did Compound and was diſcharged, without my knowledg, and againſt my will: About which time, and before the Tryal of the ſaid *Nichols*, I petitioned his late Majeſty for ſome ſupply to carry on the Affayre; which being refered to the then Lord Cheif Barron, his Lordſhip Reported as followeth, (*viz.*)

May

May it pleaſe Your Moſt Excellent Majeſty.

In Obedience to your Majeſties ſecond Order of Refferance bearing, date the 20th. *of* December *laſt, hereunto annexed; I have conſidered of the Matter thereby to me Refered, and have diſcourſed with the Petitioner about his Charges and Expence, in proſecuting the Tranſporters of Wooll; the which he hath reduced to ſome certainty, and put it into writing, and hath alſo made Affidavit of the Truth thereof; the which is likewiſe hereunto annexed, whereby it appears that during theſe 4 Years laſt paſt, wherein he hath brought into your Majeſties Exchequer about* 800*l. more than in former Years had been received, he hath Expended near as much, but there be many more Informations ſtill depending, if proved may bring in a grater Summ; But without ſome ſupply at preſent from your Majeſty he will not be able to proceed with them; if therefore your Majeſty be pleaſed to give your Petitioner* 300*l. it will incourage and Inable him to proſecute the Informations depending. And if he ſhall Convict the Offendors, he will be capable of your Majeſties further Grace and Favour, all which I moſt humbly ſubmit unto your Majeſties Judgment.*

January 3*d.* 1671. Ed. Turnor.

In which Report it doth appear that I had then expended 800*l.* and ordered 300*l.* in part until other Proſecutions brought in more Money. in a further purſuance of the ſaid Offenders, I expended about 150*l.* more, and the very Fees, Attendances, and Gratuitys to recieve the 300*l.* coſt me 50*l.* ſo that I had then but 100*l.* towards my 800*l.* And tho' I had proſecuted ſeveral Offenders (*viz.*) Indicted ſome at the Aſſizes and exhibited divers Informations in the Exchequer againſt others, yet notwithſtanding, partly by Compoſitions of the Officers, and partly by an Act of Parliament for a general pardon, I was then fruſtrated of my deſign, and prevented recieving the Ballance of my Accounts, beſides which being then complained againſt by ſome, for uſing a Millitary Power, (*viz*) a party of Horſe in that Affayre, though only for the preſervation of my own and others Lives, in execution of the known Laws; I was forced to decline that ſervice at that time in *Kent*, the effect of all which was, that great quantities of Wooll was then exported, as well from *Ireland* as from *Kent*, which is confirmed by the following Leter, part of which I have before incerted to prove the effect of my firſt attempt, the remainder follows, (*viz.*)

Both Engliſh *and* Iriſh *Wooll, Raw and Kembed abounds much in theſe Countrys, and for the Kembed Wooll, moſt of which comes from* Dover *and* Canterbury *Tranſporters:* Callis, Deep, St. Vallerys, Abliveile, Amens, Dunkirk, Oſtend, Bridgees, Zealand, Rotterdam, *and* Ghent, *all over theſe Provinces, every place is choaked with it; ſo that you may eaſily ſee how inſenſibly theſe* Dover *and* Canterbury *Tranſporters, draw the Kingdoms Hearts Blood from them; I could ad much more of the great benefit our Neighbours receive by it, which proves to an abſolute Ruine; But I guſs you can as eaſily comprehend my Meaning, as if I had further enlarged.*

In a word France *rejects our Fabricks at this day, preſuming that they ſhall never want our Wooll to make their own fantaſtick Fabricks, which are ſo variable, as puts a great ſtop to the Currant demand, that uſed to be of our more ſolid Fabricks, for they will pretend to give the Mode to all the World;*

and

and ſo by this means, in time, all the World will be diſguſted with our Fabricks, when by conſequence, they ſhall receive the Mode from the French; conſider of this I pray, that ſo there may be ſome ſpeedy remedy.

Which Leter is confirmed by two other in theſe words, *(viz.)*

We have here a miſerable Tarriff lately come forth, that Taxes Serges at 25, *Cloth at* 40, *Cottens, &c. at* 10 *Florens per.* 100 *weight, the miſery is the great quantity of Wooll that is ſtolen from* England *to* France.

So repeating the ſubſtance of the former Letter only differing expreſſions, and more large, concluding in the laſt thus, (*viz.*)

The French *are now got into a way of makeing a low price ſort of Cloth, called* Searg de Berry, *which comes as cheap as* Northern *Cloth, its about* 5 *quarters broad; they have ſo much, in which they have Cloathed a great number of their Souldiers, and all made of* Engliſh *and* Iriſh *Wooll.*

After the Aſſizes were over, I went again into *Kent*, and aboad ſome time there, looking after the Exporters, on the Sea Coaſts I found 2 Veſſels near *Hythe* appointed, and lying ready to carry away Wooll, one of which I had been informed had done little elce for a long time, of which *William Bayly* before mentioned was Maſter, the other Veſſel was new built by another perſon uſually employed in that deſign, but nothing was attempted whilſt I was in the Country: But having occaſion to come to *London*, I gave notice of the Deſign to two ſeveral Officers, by me appointed to be vigalent, who Seized 12 Packs of the Wooll deſigned to be Tranſported in one of the ſaid Veſſels, being brought down to the Sea ſide, ready to be ſhip'd off, and ſecur'd in the Houſe of one *Nicholas Davis*, and afterwards part of it was reſcu'd by the Inhabitants, who roſe in the night with Weapons, to the number of 20 Perſons, and wounding the Officers carry'd away 8 of the ſaid 12 Packs; but afterwards the ſaid *Nicholas Davis* was taken and ſecured, in order to his Tryal.

Thereupon the ſaid *Nicholas Davis*, together with *Thomas Knight* and *Thomas Stoner*, all three Inhabitants of *Rumney-Marſh*, were by me proſecuted at *Maidſtone* Summer Aſſizes 1671 for Tranſporting Wooll, where they were alſo Tryed and Convicted thereof; and the ſame Aſſizes, together with the ſaid *Edward Nichols*, formerly convicted, were burnt in the Hand, as may appear upon Record.

Theſe are to Certifie, that at the General Goal delivery holden at *Maidſtone*, in the County of *Kent*, the 12*th.* of *March* in the 24*th.* Year of His now *Majeſties* Reign 1671 *Edward Nichols Mariner* was convicted of *Fellony* for Tranſporting of Wooll; And that on the firſt Day of *Auguſt* in the 24*th.* Year aforeſaid, *Thomas Night*, *Nicholas Davis*, and *Thomas Stoner*, were convicted of *Felony* for the like Offence.

Theſe are further to Certifie, that *Wm. Carter* Gent. did on His *Majeſties* behalf attend the reſpective Tryals of the ſaid *Nichols*, *Night*, *Davis*, and *Stoner*, for the reſpective *Felonies* aforeſaid, and did then manage the reſpective Evidences againſt them, and thereupon cauſe them to be proſecuted and convicted for the ſaid *Felonies* as aforeſaid; given under my Hand, the 22*th.* of *April* 1676, and in the 28*th.* Year of our Soveraign Lord *Charles* the Second, *&c.*

Tho. Lee
Clark of the Aſſizes.

Theſe Proceedings being carryed on in the Intervale of Parliaments, at the next Seſſion I procured and ſolicited a Bill to paſs, ſo farr as to be read twice, refered and engroſſed in the Houſe of Commons, being the Subſtance of that Bill before mentioned, brought in by the

Lord

Lord Keeper *Bridgman*, but by the Means of one Mr. *Francis Monk*, it was obſtructed, on purpoſe to uſher in another Bill of his projecting, pretendedly to obſtruct, but intendedly to encourage the Exporting Wooll, as by a Draught of the ſaid Bill it ſelf is ready to be made appear.

In the Year 167°, the ſaid Mr. *Monk* Solicites another Bill in the Houſe of Commons; pretending thereby to make the Laws more practicable; but intending to Repeal the ſtrength of the Act in the 14*th* Year of his late Majeſties Reign, which Bill being Committed, and almoſt paſt the Committee (I being ſo much diſcouraged for want of Money, that I had little Intereſt in the Clarks) nevertheleſs watching his Motion, did get a worthy Member to move the Committee, to appoint ſome *Merchants* and *Factors* to attend them, and to the end, for that time adjorned, by which means I prevented his deſign that Day: And in the mean time printing ſome Reaſons againſt the Exportation of Wooll, for the Information of the Committee, before their next Meeting; whereupon his Bill was rejected and laid aſide.

After which time little was to be done in Parliament, for 3 or 4 Years, by reaſon of other things then Tranſacted.

But about he Year 1682, Mr. *Monk* Petitioned the late King in Council, to have a Commiſſion Empowring divers Perſons to put the Lawes in Execution againſt the Exportation of Wooll, ſome of which Perſons came to my Houſe in the Country, upon the Pretence that ſome Gentlemen at *white-Hall*, being willing to undertake the buſineſs, and hearing that I had ſpent ſome time in that Affaire, deſired my Aſſiſtance, and to give them a Meeting, which accordingly I did, and had ſeveral Meetings with the Gentlemen, till I was informed by ſome of them that Mr. *Monk* was concerned: Upon which notice I told the Gentlemen, that the Project laid by Mr. *Monk* would not do, and adviſed them to ſpare their Money, and ſo parted: But notwithſtanding my Caution, they did proceed upon the ſaid Petition before mentioned, untill their whole Deſigne was laid aſide, as you will find by the following Reſſerences, and Reports thereon, (*viz.*)

By an Order of Council dated the 21*ſt*. *March* 1682, and the Reports from the Lords Committee of Trade, &c. made to his late Majeſtie upon the Petition of *Francis Monk* and others, praying a Commiſſion to put in Execution the Laws Prohibiting the Tranſportation of Wooll, &c. informing his ſaid Majeſtie that there were very great abuſes in unlawful Exportations of that kind, which were of pernicious conſequence, and that the fitneſs of the Commiſſioners to be imployed in that Affayre, and the cautions to be uſed therein, were refered to the late Lords of the Treaſury to conſider of, for the better putting of the Laws in Execution.

The matter of the ſaid Order of Council, with other Papers and Propoſals, made by the Petitioners, were referred by their Lordſhips, to the Commiſſioners of his ſaid Majeſties Cuſtomes; who by their Report dated the 8*th*. of *June* 1683 do approve that ſome Perſons be appointed for that Service, under ſuch Authority as ſhould ſeem meet: And that the Perſons to be intruſted ought to be of known Honeſty.

Alſo the whole Matter aſſoreſaid was referred to *Mr. Attorny General*, who made his Report concurring with the Commiſſioners of the Cuſtomes; and he further adds, that Security ſhould be given, that upon Seizures no Compoſitions ſhould be made without Lycence.

After which, the whole matter and Reports being referred to the Company of *Merchant Adventurers* of *England*; they Reported that all Perſons, that ſhall faithfully endeavour to hinder the Exportation of Wooll, &c. as aforeſaid (without connivance to the Offenders, or ſiniſter regard to themſelves) ought to be encouraged; for as much as the Exportation is become a National Miſchief, and threatens the utter Ruine of the Woollen Trade, if not timely prevented; that ſeveral Neceſſitous Perſons, having been formerly Commiſſionared, Studying their own Profit, inſtead of hindering the ſaid Exportation, have rather Aſſiſted and Promoted, than Prevented the ſame.

Which Reports being Read by their Lordſhips, and the Anſwer of Mr. *Monk*, were ſent the 10*th*. of *March* 1683 to the ſaid Company for their further Conſideration; who in *April* 1684 ſent for me to attend them about the whole matter; who after ſeveral meetings with a Committee of the ſaid *Merchants Adventurers*, *Levant* and *Eaſt-Land* Companys, I attended the

Sea-

Sea Coaſt with 2 Men, one on Board Captain *Brown*, and another on the Shore, by which great quantitys of Wooll were Seized and Condem'd, and much more prevented from being Exported that Summer, than was Seized or Condemned.

The ſaid *Monck* and others Exhibiting again further Propoſals for the carrying on that Service, on the 4*th*. of *April* 1684, the ſame were tranſmitted to the Commiſſioners of the Cuſtomes, who the 25*th*. of the ſame Month, Reported that they did look upon thoſe men not fitt to be Imployed in ſo great a Truſt, notwithſtanding they produced the Certificates of ſeveral Clothiers, &c. Purporting their deſire that the ſaid perſons might be imployed in that Service, which Clothiers &c. So Certifying they found to be generally mean Perſons, not to be credited in a thing of that Nature and Conſequence: and requiring the ſaid undertakers to produce Certificats from known Merchants, *Blackwell-Hall* Factors &c. they declined to do the ſame.

The ſaid Company of Merchants-Adventurers of *England*, made their Report on the Papers ſent the Commiſſioners the 10*th*. of *March* 1683 wholy againſt the undertakers, for that they deſigned their own private profit, more than the effectual carrying on the intended Work; and the ſaid Company were well aſſured that if the undertakers could have no gain at all, Honeſtly, they would of neceſſity miſs the main deſign of their undertaking.

Upon all theſe Tranſactions there was a Petition drawn up by me, and exhibited to the ſaid Lords of the Treaſury by ſeveral Clothiers and Factors of the Woollen Manufacture within the Countys of *Worceſter*, *Glocester*, *Somerſet* and *Wilts*; and taking notice that the undertakers were deſigning to obtein ſuch a Commiſſion as aforeſaid, upon ſuppoſition that they were thereunto encouraged by many Thouſands of the Woollen Manufacturers, the Petitioners diſown any ſuch Power, and do therein Pray that the propoſals, being matter of weight, may be recommended to the *Hamburgh*, *Turkey* and other Companys, whom the Petitioners were aſſured would propoſe ſuch methods for effecting the ſaid Prohibitions, as may be moſt effectual and ſucceſful.

Upon which Petition the ſaid late Lords of the Treaſury cauſed Letters to be written to the ſaid Companys, taking notice in the ſaid Letters what proceedings had been made therein, and alſo ſending Coppys thereof; did in the ſaid Letters deſire the ſaid Companyes or ſome of their members to meet together to perule the ſaid Papers, and conſider of ſuch Rules and Methods as they ſhould judge proper and ſufficient for the effectual reſtraint of the Exportation of the ſaid Commodity; and in the ſaid Letters deſired the ſaid Companys to ſend their Reſolution thereon in writing; as alſo whether they or any of their Members would be willing to engage in the Care of ſeeing the Laws for Prohibting the Exportation of Wooll obſerved.

A Committee of each company mett, and the Letters and Papers being Read (and my Propoſals for a Method) all concluded it neceſſary to find out ſom fund proportional to the Charge when adjuſted; at which time by one of the Committee it was declared the Clothiers were ready for their part to contribute 1600*P*. *Per. Annum*. And it was then propounded that the ſame ſhould be farther communicated to other Merchants trading for *France*, *Spain*, *Portugal*, &c. for to procure likewiſe their aſſiſtance, And it was alſo agreed by the ſaid Committees at their next meeting to come prepared with reſolutions how much each Company would raiſe.

Att which meeting the neceſſary Charge was brought in to amount to about 4000*P*. *Per. Anuum*; after which time the Factors of *Blackwell-Hall*, in behalf of the Clothiers entred into a Voluntary Subſcription of 2*d*. *Per. Cloth*, 1*d*. *Per. Serge*, and ſo *Pro Rato*, to rayſe their 1600*P*. beforementioned, for 3 Years.

The Merchant Adventurers of *England*, agreeing to contribute 300*p*. *Per. Annum* for the like time, and other Companys, by their Deputys agreeing likewiſe to contribute in proportion to their Trade in the Woollen Manufacture.

Theſe Subſcriptions being entered into, the Difficulty lay how to Collect it; the Parliament then ſuddenly meeting, a Bill was drawn up by me, corrected by Council, and approved of by the then Lord Treaſurer, which Bill, had not the Parliament been Prorouged, and I ſtraitned for want of Money, would probably have paſſed into a Law, there being nothing on my part wanting in Solicitation.

That fayling I Petitioned his Majeſtie for two *Sloops* to be employed for the preventing Exportation of Wooll; and tho' there was ſome Oppoſition to it, yet his Majeſtie was Graciouſly pleaſed to give Order to Sett out the ſaid Sloops in that ſervice, and the Care for their dyrection being committed to me, I did accordingly undertake it: and whilſt the Veſſels were preparing at *Dover* I ſent over a Man to *Calice* to make ſome diſcovery, which he effectually did and aſſoon as one of the Veſſels were ready, I went to Sea in her, and ſent for my Man to come from *Calice*, fearing he might be diſcovered, and had he not haſtened at the receipt of my Letter, in all probability he might have been Killed; for another Perſon was ſet upon in *Calice* as ſuppoſing him to be my Man, and was like to have been Murdered, had not his Landlord rectified the *French-Mens* miſtake: Meeting my Man at Sea in the Packet-boat, we took him on Board, and by his diſcovery we took ſeveral *French* Shallops before we came into *Dover*, and tho' great Oppoſition was made in the Exchequer by many Claymes and other vexatious motions there, to diſcourage me; yet I proſecuted, and condemned three in Michalmas Term 1685, and cauſed more to be Seized at that time, which afterward were proſecuted to Condemnation; and in the middle of *December* I took a Jorney into the *North*, leaving my Man at *Dover*, to obſerve my dyrections whilſt abſent. The Exporters contriving how to hinder my deſign, had got a *Quo minus* out of the Exchequer againſt him for 500*l*. in the name of *John Noble*, a Perſon that he never ſaw or heard of before, and kept it in their hands above a Month, that they might ſurely fix him in Priſon, becauſe the Veſſels were diſcovered by him (I having ſent him privately to *Calice* for that purpoſe) and alſo the Information Exhibited in his name, tho' the Forfiture of forreign Veſſels are wholly the Kings. And before they executed their *Quo minus*, ſome of them made Affidavit and ſent it up to *London*, and moved the Court of Exchequer the firſt day of the next Term (*viz*) 23*th*. of *January* 1685 for an attachment againſt him, under pretence of a Contempt of an Order of Court, for not delivering of a Veſſel Seiſed and not Condem'd; and an Attachment was awarded againſt him, unleſs he ſhewed Cauſe to the contrary in five or ſix dayes; and that he might not be capable of ſhewing Cauſe, the ſaid Exporters, aſſoon as they heard of an order of Court, Arreſted him and carryed him a Priſoner to *Dover-caſtle*, upon the 500*l*. Action: but Mr. *Breton* the Collector of *Dover*, believing it to be a ſham Action, deſigned to Bayle him, till *William Eaton* (one of the contrivers) ſent him a Letter to diſſwade him, aſſuring him it would be proved a Real Debt; ſo he was forced to ly in Priſon.

About this time coming home I was informed of the Order of the Court of Exchequer, and the next day, I did appear my ſelf in the ſaid Court, and owned the proceedings of my Man, as done by my Order, and therefore would be lyable to the Judgment of the Court for what he had done, and ſent for him up to anſwer, not knowing him then to be a Priſoner in *Dover-Caſtle*: but being informed of that, I moved the Court upon an Affidavit, and got a friend with me, and we become Bayle in Court, and removed him by *Hebeas Corpus*: ſo all that buſineſs fell to the ground; till afterwards having gott him a Priſoner att *Bulloine* in *France*, they proceeded againſt him on a feigned Action in the Crown Office, and would have brought it to Tryal att *Maidſtone* Aſſizes, but I ſtopt it at Mr. Attorny-Generals.

After which time, upon the encouragement of the Contribution before mentioned, there were fitted out two of the beſt of thoſe *French* Veſſels which I had gott condemned; and together with the aſſiſtance of thoſe two Sloops his Majeſtie (upon my petition) had Set out, there has been aboue 20 Veſſels ſeized and condemned, and divers parcels of Wooll, beſides great quantites caſt over board by the Exporters, that they and their Veſſels might make their eſcape.

But in the midſt of theſe Tranſactions the late Lord Treaſurer hearing little from the Merchants, after his Majeſtie had ſett out the two Sloops before mentioned, his Lordſhip by his Letter dated the 15*th*. of *March* 168$\frac{6}{5}$, to the Company of Merchant Adventurers of *England*, preſt the ſaid Company, to conſider what his Majeſtie had done, in ſetting out two Sloops as an encouragement for them to proceed; and of what evil Conſequence Delayes were in that concern. To which the ſaid Company, by their Letters of the 25*th*. of the ſame Month, informed

formed his Lordship what progress they had made in that matter; and that for their share they had resolved to contribute 300*l.* *Per Annum* for 3 Years; as the Factors had for their Clothiers, by their Subscriptions of 2*d.* *Per.* Cloth (and for the better carring on the said Work, had ordered two Sloops that had been taken and condemned by me, to be fitted out for that Service) though other Merchants had not come to any Resolution in that matter, how much they would contribute. Upon the Receipt of this Letter his Lordship directed Letters dated the 30*th*, of the same month to the other Companys, to inform them what progress the said Company of Marchants Adventurers had made, &c. Whereupon the said Companys (or most of them) gave answer to his Lordship of their readiness to assist proportionable to their Trade, for so good a Work; Copies of which Letters were sent to the Merchants Adventurers, by Mr. *Guy*, the 10*th*. of *April* following (*viz.*) 1686.

And having, as before mentioned, caused not only so many Vessels and great quantities of Wooll to be condemned at my own Charge, tho' in the Officers names, and intending to bring up the Wooll to *London* to be sold to Clothiers, (it being generally sold before by the Officers to the Exporters) some of the the Officers refused to agree therto, because it would yeild more mony at *Dover*: upon which in *May* 1686, I wrote to then Lord Treasurer the matter of Fact, and his Lordship by Mr. *Guy* ordered the Commissioners of the Customes to direct their Officers to permit me to take the Wooll as appraised (I paying the Charge) and bring it up to *London*, to be sold to the Clothiers. In pursuance thereof, after I had condemned the Wooll at my own charge, and paid the King's moiety into the Exchequer, and remitted money to *Dover*, and paid the Officers moiety, with all their charge there, I ordered it to be brought up: And having setled things at *Dover*, as I thought well, and exhibited several Informations in the Exchequer on the Forfietures of 3*s.* *per.* Pound, and prepared to Prosecute others on the Statute of the 14*th*. of *Charles* the second, By this means so great a stop was put to the said Exportation by these Prosecutions, that Wooll did rise in *France* above 30. *per. Cent.* in 6 months time, (*viz.*) between *January* 1685, and *July* 1686: After which I took a Jorney into the North on the Borders of *Scotland*, in order to prevent the mischiefs in those parts; but whilst there, was informed, that some of the Officers of the Customes in confederacy with the Exporters, did endeavour to obstruct my Proceedings, which they had been a long time contriving.

And whilst I was in the North, was informed that the Wooll I had condemned for the Officers in their own Names, and paid all the Charges, and running the risk of bringing it up to *London*, as before mentioned, was by one of the Officers sold by some under hand means, and he received part of the money for it, which I had fully paid him for before, and so went out of Town, which occasioned a great Controversy betwixt my Friends here, (that had supplyed me with money, and to whom the Wooll should have been delivered) and some others: This coming to the Ears of the Exporters at *Canterbury* and *Dover* in few hours, for their encouragement (as well as it came to me in the North for my discouragement) their Plot took effect, and so from that time, (*viz.*) *August* and *September* 1686, the Exporters revived their old Trade, that in a little time twenty thousand Packs were exported: The forementioned Officer was Commander of one of the Sloops that I had prevayled by Petition to his Majestie to fit out, and would have been put out of his place through his folly long since, and the Sloop laid aside; had not I through the importunity of his Friends born with him, and kept him in; by which means the advantage he hath received thereby, cannot be less than 600*l.* in 2 Year and halfs time; but having for some time left him to his own conduct, he is through his Folly and Knavery dismist from his employ.

At my return from the North, the first thing to be done was to get my man out of Prison, but in little or no Capacity to hinder the said Exportation from *Kent*, the 2 Vessels before mentioned that were put out, being laid up, having neither Power to Seize Wooll, nor Collect money to prosecute the Offenders.

After which time I Petitioned the then Lord Treasurer to Impower the said Companies, Factors and Clothiers, *&c.* that had entered into a voluntary Contribution, that they might be in a condition to carry on so good a Work, the Petition being referred to the Commissio-

ners of the Customes nothing was done; this attempt fayling I Petitioned his Majestie in Council, some time after to the same effect, annexing a Copy of the Commission to Christs Hospital before mentioned, which being referred to the Lords Commissioners of his Majesty's Treasury about *February* 1686, their Lordships referred the whole to the Commissioners, as before the late Lord Treasurer had done, and there it rested.

Nevertheless, tho' I could not do what I would, yet I neglected no opportunity I was capable of; for hearing that there was a design privately to procure a Licence to Export 6000 Baggs of Woull from Ireland; which might contain 20000 Packs: the Names of the Persons being given to me, I went immediatly to Mr. Attorney Generals, Treasury, Secretary of State and Signet Offices, and entered *Caveats* at each Office; and a Friend of mine wrote a Letter to a Worthy Merchant and Gentleman in the Country, who did immediatly, with some other Gentlemen write to a great Minister of State; who was pleased to answer as followeth, (*viz.*)

Gentlemen,

Yours of the fourth Instant was conveyed to me last night, while I attended his Majestie at Councel, which I immediatly communicated: Both His Majestie and we that had the honour to attend him were all surprized that the Malicious False Reports that you seem to Insinuate, had obteined credit in your Neighbourhood, of His Majesties Intentions, to give Licence for the Transportation of Irish *Woull to parts beyond the Seas: It hath been so farr from His Majesties Intentions, that He has long ago given strict Orders, both to His Admiralty, and in His several Ports to use their utmost endeavours for the strict Prosecution of all Offenders in that kind, and hath further given directions to the Officers of the Customes, to give their utmost assistance in the Affair: But for your satisfaction the King Commanded me to let you know His Royal Pleasure therein, and that He expects You to take Care that His Royal Intentions may be made Publick.*

I have also in Command that the Justices of Assizes, do take especial Care to satisfy the Country in this particular; so Gentlemen having no more at present to trouble you, I crave leave to Subscribe my self, &c.

London 14*th. Feb.* 1686.

After which time some of the Officers in further pursuance of their design, to baffle me in my proceedings for future, upon the alteration of some persons in Office so represented me; that I was rendered thereby wholly uncapable of any thing, and by some greatly reflected on, 'tt ll I had prevailed by the means of some eminent Merchants, to have a hearing before the Lords Commissioners of His Majesties Treasury: At which hearing it was judged reasonable, I should be re-imburst my Charge in that service, and ordered to bring my Accounts, and Certificates from Sr. *Rob. Howard*, what money was brought into the Exchequer by my Prosecutions; which being done, and their Lordships referring the whole matter to the Commissioners of Customes, in *May* 1687, upon receipt of which, the Commissioners were pleased to direct Letters to the Officers, (in whose Names I had prosecuted and paid in the money, as before mentioned) to know whither they did own what I had done, and some of them, (even those very men, that I had directed how to Seize, and undertook to runn the risk, as before mentioned, for their Advantage) were not only so base as to deny what I had done

for

for them, but alſo guilty of Forgery; ſo at that time I was rendered by ſome very Obnoxious, and at the ſame time perplexed in the Court of Exchecquer by the Exporters; and was forced to pay great Summs in my own defence, and particularly for one Witneſs being his Bayle it coſt me near 50l.; notwithſtanding all which, I at laſt recovered my ſelf in my Reputation, and gave Anſwer to thoſe Officers Letters, and ſent it to the Commiſſioners as followeth. (*viz.*)

Whereas it hath been objected that I pretend the Proſecution of Wooll and Veſſels, when is hath been done by the Officers, and Letters are produced, which would ſeem to make good the pretence; to inſtance one for all, (*viz.*) Captain *Knight*'s to the Commiſſioners.

May it pleaſe Your Honours,

The Wooll I have taken and ſeized was by my own Endeavours and Induſtry, Condemned by a due Courſe of Law, and the King's Moiety paid with my own Money: Now I humbly pray your Honours that if his Majeſtie pleaſe to grant the Bounty, I may receive it for my Encouragement,

Your Honours moſt Obedient and Humble Servant

Dover *the* 9*th. of* June 1687.

Peter Knight.

In anſwer thereunto, I ſhall annex the *Affidavit* of two of his own men, that prove, that Captain *Knight* was not at *Dover*, at the time of the date of the pretended Letter; but at Sea ſix Daves before and four after, and by an *Affidavit* of his Sonns, that the matter in the Letter is Falſe, by which others may be judged; beſides the matter of *John Knight*'s *Affidavit*, I did, in a late parcel of Wooll, Seized by the ſaid Caprain *Knight*, Condemn and pay the Charge, and the King's full Moiety as it was appraiſed; yet when I Sold it, I was forced to abate 3l. *per.* Pack of the Appraiſement, and Good to the loſs, ſingly, that I might not hinder the bringing up the Wooll, tho' it yeilded more Money at *Dover* than here, being done before the Proclamation came forth: The Truth of this Anſwer will appear in the following Affidavits, (*viz.*)

Robert Kidman *and* William Avres *maketh Oath, that theſe Deponents being employed under Captain* Peter Knight, *Commander of a Sloop to prevent the Exportation of Wooll, and having been at Sea with the ſaid Captain* Knight *as Mariners, in His Majeſties Service about tenn Days, came not on Shore from Sea, 'till Sunday laſt: by which reaſon they could not Appear according to the contents of a* Subpena *iſſued out of this Honourable Court, requiring them to be at* Weſtminſter *on Munday laſt at one of the Clock, to give their Teſtimony for the King againſt* Henry Culmer. *And they could not poſſibly come to* London *before Teuſday morning laſt, and are come on purpoſe to give their evidence at the ſaid Tryal, which they apprehend to be on Thurſday, if they could not come*

time

time enough on Munday, and they are able to prove, that the said Henry Culmer *hath Exported divers quantities of Wooll, having taken him in the Fact of Exporting the same.*

Jur. Decimo sept. Die Aprilis 1687. Coram me, E. Atkins.

Robert Kedman.
W. A. the mark of *William Aires.*

John Knight *maketh Oath that being employed as Mate under his Father* Peter Knight *in the Service of the Customes, for about sixteen Years past, he hath observed that after the Seizures of Wooll by the Custome-House Officers, the Owners of the Wooll, or some Agent for them generally bought the Wooll of the Officers, which afterwards was Commonly exported, and this he hath the greater reason to believe, for that several times, when this Deponent hath been present at the Seizing of Wooll, after the same hath been condemned, he hath taken the very same parcels again at Sea, as it hath been Exporting the second time.*

And that several Officers, after they have Seized Wooll, have delivered it to the Owners, without any Proceedings therein.

And this Deponent further saith, that when his Father formerly made Seizures of Wooll, he agreed with the Superior Officers of the Customes, to give them part of the benefit of his Seizures, besides the full Charge of the Prosecution to Condemnation; by which the said Officers generally had an equal Profit of the said Seizures, with the said Peter Knight; *but since Mr.* Carter *hath looked after the Exporters, the said* Carter *hath paid the said* Peter Knight *all his Charges, in Taking, Appraising and Condemning the Vessels and Wooll, and the full Moiety thereof clear of all Charges, and besides when the Wooll Condemned was Sold for more than the Appraisement, the overplus was paid by the said* Carter *to his Father* Peter Knight.

Jur. Decimo Tertia die April Anno Dom. 1687. Ed. Atkins.

John Knight.

And as to the Charge in General of my discouraging Diligent Officers.

In Answer to which, as the Affidavit of *John Knight* before mentioned, do in part prove the contrary: So I do Averr and shall make good, that in the Seizures of Wooll and Vessels, that I have undertook to Prosecute, I have bore all the Charge and run the risk, in Case the Wooll and Vessels were not Condemned, and have Prosecuted in the Officers Name, who have had the full benefit of the Moiety thereof, tho' I have been at the Seizing both of Wooll and Vessels my self.

And besides the Charges in Prosecuting and condemning the said Wooll and Vessels in the Exchequer, I have actually paid amongst the said Officers near 200l. for their Charges about *Dover* in their Seizing, Appraising, and other Incidents, several of which Seizures had not I under-

undertook, the Officers would have let fall; by all which it doth appear, whether I have discouraged Officers, and gained my self, when I have within this four Years spent 1000l. in Travailing, and in the said Prosecutions, besides Servants Wages and my own time, and keeping of Horses, towards all which I have received between 2 and 300l.

After which time I Petitioned the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, laying before their Lordships my Case and Suffering in my Service, and what Damage His Majestie and the Kingdome sustained thereby; and had prepared for Tryal of a Transporter in Michaelmass Term, being not able to proceed and having borrowed diverse great Sums to carry on the Affayre so farr; which being referred to the Commissioners of the Customes, they ordered their Solicitor to disburse the Money, upon which I proceeded, and as before cast the Exporter; some time after I attended the Commissioners upon the former reference, who were pleased to make Report as followeth.

May it Please your Lordships

In obedience to your Lordships commands upon the annexed Petition, and other Papers of Mr. Carters, *delivered to us by your Lordships in* May *last We have considered the said Petition and Papers; and do humbly Report to your Lordships that we have observed the Petitioner to have been a very Zealous prosecutor of the Transgressions, and transgressors mentioned in the Petition, and that upon his motion the King was pleased about two years since, att his own charge to set out two Vessels to prevent the Transportation of* Wooll, *which are continued in that Service to this day, that in his proceedings he hath met with great opposition and difficulty, and upon that consideration he has upon diverse occasion obtained favourable Reports from this Board; as a Person fit to be countenanced and encouraged in his proceedings: yet we never intended that his charge was to be born by the King, supposing his recompence to be out of his share of such penalties and Forfeiturs, as he should himself Prosecute and recover, or should be otherwise contributed to him, by the Merchants and Clothiers, who he alledged to be willing to undergoe the Charge, and by the Account hereunto annexed we find that he has run himself into very great Expence, and we are informed that not having met with the Encouragement he Presumed upon from the Merchants and others, he has much lessened his own private fortune thereby. Upon the whole Matter we are humbly of opinion that he has with great Heartiness and Zeal, Prosecuted the Offenders and Vessels, that have been Guilty in Transporting Wooll, and that he hath dealt therein with all Honesty and Integrity, and we are humbly of Opinion that the said Account hereunto annexed, is a true Account, he having offered to make Oath of the Truth thereof, and we do Humbly recommend the same to your Lordships Favourable consideration, but we cannot advise the disposing of his Majesties part of the Forfiture, otherwise than they are already disposed by Proclamation.*

Custom-House February the 18th. 1687.

N. B. D. N.
J. W. W. C.

In

In which Report you may perceive my Actions and Integrity, and that I have not received the Money I have expended, much leſs any thing for my Time, Hazard and Labour, nor for my Servants, or keeping of Horſes theſe four Years, beſides former Diſburſtments, part of which was before mentioned in the late Lord Cheif Baron's Report; more you may perceive by theſe following Lines, what I Wrote to the Merchants and Clothiers, and Printed it, as an Advertiſement to them, in the Year 1672. (*viz.*)

A Brief Advertiſement to the Merchants and Cloathiers, &c.

GENTLEMEN,

I Had an Intention, the beginning of the laſt Summer, (before a long and chargeable Fit of Sickneſs befel me for near three Months,) to inform you in what ſtate that Affair about Exportation of Wooll, then ſtood; in which the Life and Death of your Trade, and the ſubſiſtence of many Thouſands of Families, that depend on that *Manufacture*, conſiſts.

Give me leave, (by ſome of the many inſtances I could give,) to demonſtrate, that, my Labour, in this affair, hath not been fruitleſs altogether.

I have now been four years engaged in this Service: and how I have been forced, as well upon Travils, as Watching both by Sea and on ſhore, I preſume is well known to many of you.

And what expence I have been at, in that time, both for ſervants and horſes, and in my attendance at Court, and on the Parliament, gratuities to Sea-men, and parties of horſe, and for the holding, and maintaining correſpondencies in *Ireland*, *Flanders*, *&c.* you cannot but in ſome meaſure be able to appehend.

And that it muſt be the greater, in that I have not ſpent ſix daies, in twelve Moneths, at my own habitation, with my Friends either to abate expences, or to look after any private buſineſs of my own.

What damage I have ſuſtained, by loſing my Trade in purſuance of this affair, is wel known (at leaſt) to ſome: for,

When firſt I undertook this Affair, I intended to ſpend only one Moneth, or thereabout, in attending on the Parliament for a new Act, which held me near ſix Moneths; and at the Adjurnment of the Parliament, I returned to my calling; it being kept on foot for me, during the time of my attendance.

But thoſe that knew my Trade at that time, know right well what opportunities of advantage I left ſlip.

Therefore it muſt be a great miſtake in ſome, that think I took up this Affair, as though I had nothing elſe to doe.

For I was importuned by ſeveral Merchants and Others, ſoon after the Adjurnment of the Parlament, to addreſs my ſelf unto his Majeſtie in Council, for a Party of Horſe, to be in *Rumny Marſh* in *Kent*, where the greateſt part of the Wooll is ſhipped from *England*; and ſome Frigats, for preventing the ſaid miſchief; which through his Majeſties favour and incouragement, I did obtain.

Upon the promiſe of thoſe Merchants, to re-imburſe my charge, I proceeded.

And had thoſe Merchants and Others, perform'd their promiſe, as ſome few did, I had done much more than I have, (though I have left nothing undone, that I was capable to perform, or doe, conſidering how little aſſiſtance I had from others) and indeed, my endeavours in this buſineſs, have had ſo good ſucceſs, as to prevent many Thouſand Packs of Wooll from exportation, that the effect evidenced it ſelf (at that time obvious to many Merchants, from their correſpondents beyond Sea,) in the riſe of Wooll there and the fall here.

But

But ſhould it now hereafter, for want of incouragment and attendane miſcarry, how much it will wound *Englands* trade to the heart, I need not tell you, for, ſuch is the gaine and incouragemend, for the tranſporting of this commodity, that if any imployed, or entruſted in this affair, will be bribed, they need not make complaint for want of Money, I do aſſure you: and if I for my integrity muſt fall, (and be forced to quit thes ſervice,) after all this four years labour and travail, It will be no encouragement to any other Peaſen, to engage a-freſh therein.

Give me leave to adde, that it was no ſmall grief to me, during my ſickneſs, to here of the many hundred packs of Wooll that were exported, (both from *England* and *Ireland*,) more than had been at other times, which you will eaſily ſee in the enſuing Petition and Letter; and my trouble was ſo much the more for as much as the King had given Order, a little before, that a Veſſel purpoſely hired, becauſe of Her ſwiftneſs, ſhould attend that affair, and though I had made proviſion (by correſpondante) for intellegence to prevent that miſchief, yet I had not Money to pay Servants, nor to encourage my coriſpondents, nor that I could find any willing or able to purſue the ſaid buſineſs, either becauſe of the hazard or pains, or expenſiveneſs thereof. The effect of which about *Michalmas* laſt, occaſioned this following Petition.

To the Kings moſt excellent *Majeſty*

The Humble Petition of ſeveral Merchants.

Sheweth,

THat although many ſevere Laws, have been made againſt the Tranſportation of Wooll; nevertheleſe, many evil diſpoſed Perſons, do frequently Ship-off great quantities thereof to the great decay of the Cloathing-Trade of this Kingdom, and to the undoing of many thouſant Families, who lived comfortably thereupon: and being through an ill cuſtom, ſold inforraign parts, as cheap as in many many places of this Kingdom; by means whereof, the Woollen Manufacture of this Nation, findes but ſmall vend abroad, and dayly decreaſeth in price; ſo that neither the Clothier, nor Merchant, have any incouragement, in making, or tranſporting the ſame; together with ſuch great duties impoſed by the *French* King, and Others; as in effect amounts to an abſolute prohibition, (and that no purpoſe to incourage the Manufacture of their own Country.) Which if by ſome effectual means, be not ſpeedily prevented, muſt in a ſhort time, wholy deſtroy the great Manufacture, and Staple trade of this your Majeſties Kingdom and conſeqvently to the decreaſing of your Majeſties Revenues, of the Cuſtom; and that more particularly of late dayes, a greater quantity of Wooll, hath been tranſported then formerly, by reaſon, as is doubted, of the connivance of ſome Officers, and eaſily compounding with the tranſporters when diſcovered, which gives great incouragement to thoſe Perſons, to continue in this moſt deſtructive courſe

Your Petitioners moſt humbly pray, that your Majeſtie, would be pleaſed to iſſue out your Royal Proclamation, commanding all Officers and Others, to put the Laws in execution, that ſo all may take notice thereof: there being many poor people imployed in ſhipping off the Wooll, who pretend ignorance, and know not the Penalty of the Law: and that no compounding be made with any, but the Laws may be ſeverly put in execution, againſt all Perſons that may be found guilty.

And

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And tho' I have before upon this occaſion incerted the ſubſtance of a Letter Dated, *Flanders March* the 5*th*. 167[illegible]. yet I cannot wave a repitition of this part of it.

Sir

I received yours of the $\frac{17}{27}$ *Februry*, under Covert from &c. about the Wooll-affair. I have much reaſon to believe, unleſs ſome are made Examples, there will be continual abuſe; the Commodity, both *Engliſh* and *Iriſh*, Raw and Comb'd, abound ſo much in theſe Countries, as at preſent it's worth nothing. &c.

Now Sirs, how both theſe do anſwer, to what was ſaid before, that unleſs this Buſineſs be continually attended, by ſome Perſon, that will be faithful; there will be an inevitable ruine of the Clothing Trade, may be eaſily perceived.

Give me leave further to inform you, what great Senſe his Majeſty himſelf hath alſo of this Affair; who hath been pleaſed to evidence it, both by his Care and Charge, in not only commanding His Troops, but ſeveral Frygots to attend upon every Occaſion, beſide his Hireing a Veſſel; he alſo hath ſpent many dayes in Council about it; and in declaring his reſolution, ſtrictly to execute all the Laws againſt the Tranſportation of Wooll, and to further all rational Propoſals, that can be further made; and did order (upon reading the fore-mentioned Petion of the Merchants) his Royal Proclamation, to be iſſued out about this Matter.

Now for a concluſion, Gentlemen: If this ſervice be acceptable, and that it be carryed on, you cannot imagine, it can be done without ſupplies. For, you cannot expect the King ſhould take the charge of it wholly upon himſelf; of which, the profit will moſtly return to his Subjects. Nor that I ſhould, if I were able, bear it my ſelf, though indeed I have done it beyond what my condition could well permit me; and it's very plain, what hath been the conſequence of my being diſcouraged, and taken (wholly off) but three Months from this Affair.

Sirs, I hope you will believe, and i'ts but Rational, ſo to do; if I have ſpent ſo much of my time, and ſtrength, moſtly upon my own charge, with thoſe hazards I have been expoſed to, theſe four years, in this Affair, with that little incouragement I have received: that if incouraged but with neceſſary ſupplies, ſo that I might not be taken off my purſuit, that I might do much more than I have; and the rather, becauſe every thing is more eaſie than it was at firſt, having diſcovered ſo many Perſons, and their wayes, and ſeveral in cuſtody, in order to their Tryal, ſome Convicted: its Rational, at leaſt to ſuppoſe the way fair, to put a ſtop, to this moſt deſtructive courſe.

Gentlemen, Theſe inſtances are not of ſmall import. To the whole Affairs, and that the agitations about them: call for no ſmall attendance and travel; nor is it without its own charges, accompanying diſpatches.

I have alſo given Declarations to two Perſons, for tranſporting above three Hundred packs of Wooll, and had prepared Tryals with them; but was forced to forbear two or three Terms for want of Aſſiſtance to proſecute them; for ſuch Potent Perſons, are not eaſily run down: if they, and their Confederates kuow once with whome they have to doe, (if they will not be bribed) and that Money is wanting to proſecute, they can finde wayes by Friends, and Money, to make Suits delatory and chargeable; beſides an other miſchief, of taking off Witneſſes: Of which you will ſee a Demonſtration afterwards.

At *Eaſter* or *Trinity* Term 1669, one Mr. *John Morten* proſecutes *Mark Gabree* in the Exchequer, for tranſporting of Wooll. The ſaid *Gabree* removes it into *Surry*, where Mr. *Morten* brings it to Tryal, *Midſomer* Aſſizes following, and ſubpena's one *Thomas Petley*, who had been *Gabrees* Wooll-Kember: *Morten* obtains a Verdict againſt the ſaid *Gabree*; but ſo it was ordered, that whereas the forfiture was three Shillings *per* pound, he had but twelve pence: and being but a ſmall parcel, he loſt by it.

At *Michaelmas* following, the Tryal aforeſaid, *Gabree* arreſts *Petley*, by a Writ of the Crown Office for Perjury, out of revenge; and to undo him, being but a poor man, and make him uncapable of being Witneſs any more; and to deter others.

At *Midſummer* Aſſizes 1670, *Gabree* pretends to come to Tryal: but when he ſaw *Petley* appear, and had his Witneſſes for his defence, he let it fall that Aſſize.

Since

Since *Michaelmas*, Seventy one, *Petley* is again arreſted as aforeſaid.

But I have now preſented hi Caſe to his *Majeſty*, elſe he would have been utterly ruin'd; and now the ſaid *Gabret* is in Cuſtody, being owner of the Wooll, taken at *Gravejend*, as aforeſaid.

I ſhall conclude with a few particular Inſtances, that I obſerved in attending the Parliament, of which I only hinted ſome thing in *page 5th*.

To begin with a Motion made in the Houſe of Commons 1670, when that Houſe were under conſideration of raiſing Money for His Late Majeſty's ſupply, it being then taken for granted, that there were great quantitys of Wooll clandeſtinely exported from *Ireland* to Forreign Parts, it was then propounded, that a Tax of 2*d.* or 3*d. per l.* might be laid upon ſuch Wooll for three Reaſons, then given, (*viz.*) Firſt, it would make it ſo Dear to Foraigners, that the *Engliſh* could under ſell them in our Manufactury. Secondly, It would raiſe a great Revenue to his Majeſtie. Thirdly, It would be an inducement to the Officers, to be more careful to look after the Cuſtome, and ſo leſs would go: This ſeemed to many Wiſe Grave Senators at firſt, to be very Feſible, until I gave Anſwer to it. And that was thus.

Anſw. 1. As to 2. *d.* or 3. *d. per* pound dearer, ſignifies nothing: For if they Enter 10 Packs, there ſhall go off a 100 Packs Unentred. But grant it did all pay that Cuſtome there in *Ireland*, it pays no Cuſtome when it's Imported in *Holland*, *Flanders*, or *France*; and then to conſider the Cuſtome it paid here to his Majeſtie upon our Woollen Manufactury, when Exported, which is above five pound for a Pack of Worſted-ſtuffs, *&c.* and it's ſuch Wooll that is coveted; and that as before the *French* King laying ſuch an Impoſt upon our *Engliſh* Woollen Manufacturies, of 20 or 30 *per cent*, this overballanceth by ten parts the firſt Reaſon, and beſides about the Manufactors working ſo much cheaper, which I humbly ſuppoſe, is a ſufficient Anſwer to the firſt Reaſon of the Motion.

Anſw. 2. As to his Majeſties Revenue by 2 *d.* or 3 *d. per* pound, is anſwered in ſhort; The Cuſtome paid as above upon the Export of our Woollen Manufacturies, is double that Cuſtome; but the Cuſtome upon the Importation of the Product thereof, may amonnt to three times the worth of the Pack of Wooll; from hence may be concluded, That his Majeſties damage by the quantity that is aſſerted to be Tranſported, cannot be leſs than one Million of pounds Starling; ſo that this alſo is Anſwered

Anſw. 3. ~~As to the Officers inducement, I ſhall anſwer in ſhort, by asking this ſingle~~ Queſtion, (*viz.*) Which in reaſon can be the greateſt Inducement, 3 *d. per* pound for Cuſtome, or 3 *s. per* pound Forfiture, of which three parts is given to the Proſecutor, who muſt be ſuppoſed to be more watchful to gain the Forfieture, than the Cuſtom for the King, if Shipt to be Tranſported, which is now in Force and Recoverable? But there was more in the bottom, For within a day or two of the ſaid Motion, there was a Noble Lord did affirm in the Committee for Wooll, that his Lordſhip was offered a hundred thouſand pound Sterling, to paſs an Act for Tranſportation of Wooll; and beſides, there is a Petition of many years ſtanding, that within this few months I had a view of, for Combed Wooll to go off upon the ſame pretence as before; alledging it is courſe Wooll, and not for the Clothier. It's true, that it is not fit for Cloth, but it is for Worſted-ſtuffs, and Stockings, which is as prejudicial, if not more than Clothing Wooll.

By which that motion fell to the ground, but ſome time after the petition before mentioned, did appear bare Faced, of which I wrote in a Letter to the Merchants and Cloathiers (*viz.*) in 1686 Comprehending what paſt in Parliament from 75 till that time, (*viz.*) I began this.

Perceiving at length what I had for ſome time a ſuſpition of, that ſome Perſons at the then next Seſſions of Parliament, did not only appear to juſtify the Fact of Tranſportation of Wooll privatly, but did appear publickly and in Print, to aſſert and avow the conveniency that it would be to this Nation; and therefore did deſire, that an Act of Parliament might be made for a limited Exportation, giving alſo ſome pretended Reaſons for the ſame.

In *March* 1676 a Bill was put into the Hand of an Eminent Member of the then Houſe of Commons, to be brought into that Houſe, with whome I had ſome Diſcourſe, and did ſo far diſwade him to delay, till the following Letter prevail'd on the *Factors*, and ſome *Clothiers* then in Town, to aſſiſt me.

March the 22*d*. 1676

Sirs, Having been at *Weſtminſter* this day, and ſpake with divers Members, I find the Arguments for the Exportation of Wooll, have ſo far prevailed with the Parliament-men, that a Bill is already put in Sr. *T. M*'s. Hand to bring it into the Houſe which may be done this very day (altho' I had ſome Diſcourſe with him about it and did endeavour to diſwade him from it)

The Conſequence of which, ſeeing it muſt tend to the utter Ruine of the Cloathing Trade, and ſeeing I have done the utmoſt that can be expected on my part to prevent it, which is to draw up Reaſons effectually to make out the Inconvenience of it, which I have alſo put into the Printer's hand.

I thought it my Duty therefore, further to acquaint you, that unleſs ſome further ſpeedy Courſe be taken for a general meeting, to conſider how, and in what manner this Miſchief ſhould be obviated. I conceived the Intreſt of the Clothier would ſuddenly have grown deſperate, ſeeing no private or ſingle Mans appearing in this Caſe, who ever he be, can ſignify any thing to oppoſe it.

I am much convinced, that not only the Cloathing Trade, but the very Intreſt of the Nation in general is at ſtake, and in hazzard to be utterly loſt, if this Point ſhould now be wholy neglected? This I have for ſome years foreſeen, and have talked of, but it hath not been regarded, but you will find that I ſpake not ſlightly, but on good grounds. and what there is juſt Cauſe to ſuſpect, will come to paſs, if this Matter be not with Induſtry and Diligence prevented.

After I had prevailed with the Clothiers to give me ſome encouragement; I did then endeavour to uſe proper Arguments, and took a fit Seaſon to preſent them, when the Houſe of Commons was ſo earneſt for the prohebiting *French* Commodities, laying before them, that the Wooll endeavoured to be limited for Tranſportation was principally intended for *France*, which proved ſo effectual for the Ends deſigned; which Arguments I refer you to for your further ſatisfaction.

After this was laid aſide, the next Seſſions of Parliament comes a Gentleman that hath been all along my Competitor (*viz*.) Mr. *Munk* as in *p*. 8 and brings in a Bill, and prevailed ſo far as to get it read and committed, upon which I drew up the following Petition, which was ſigned by ſeveral Merchants and Factors, *viz*.

Whereas *there is a Bill depending, the Parliament whereof ſeems to be againſt Tranſportation of Wooll, the Scope and Conſequence of it (as is humbly conceived) will tend rather to encourage it: For whereas it is ſuggeſted in the ſaid Bill, that the Act made in the* 14th, *Year of His Majeſties Reign, making Tranſporting of Wooll Felony, is ineffectual for the preventing thereof, and therefore prays the Repealing the Felony of that Act, without confirming the reſt of that Act; as if making Tranſportation to be Felony did encourage Tranſporting; that Suggeſtion with all ſubmiſſion is conceived to be a great miſtake: For though it muſt be granted (whatever Laws have been or ſhall be made in this caſe) that ſome Perſons for their own Lucre (though it be never ſo much to the Damage of the great Manufacture of this Kingdom, and notwithſtanding all the Care imaginable) will adventure to Tranſport Wooll. Yet for ſome Years after the Act of the* 14 Car. 2. *was in force, there was a great ſtop put to the ſaid Tranſportation, until wooll ſo increaſed in* Ireland *beyond its Conſumption there and here, that great Quantities were actually Tranſported from thence; but till that Glut the Act of the* 14th. *Year of His Majeſties Reign (by which the Forfeture was Three Shillings for every pound of Wooll beſides the Wooll forfited) conjoyned with the Act in the* 13th. *Year of His Majeſties Reign, was found effectual to prohibit Tranſporting Wooll, for*

the

the Profecutor had liberty to profecute upon which Act he pleaſed as to the Forfeiture.

Your *Petitioner further ſteweth: That 'tis well known that the moſt part of the goods, which are Yearly Imported into this Kingdom, being to the value of Jeveral* Millions *of pounds* Starling, *are no otherwiſe anſwered, but by the value of the Commodities which are exported hence; the bulk of which conſiſts chiefly in our Woollen-Manufacture.*

And it muſt be granted, that the employment of the Shipping fo this Kingdom, which is wholy the maintainance of the Sea-men, depends not (as in ſome other Countries) upon the Fiſhing, but upon the ſaid Manufacture mainly and principally.

Which therefore is at this time the chief ſupport of this Kingdom, as that upon which the whole Trade, Cuſtome, Shipping, and Strength of it doth mainly depend; over and above the employment that is given to the Poor, and the price that is raiſed upon all ſorts of victuals, and conſequently upon Land it ſelf.

From all which it muſt naturally follow, that Wooll, the material of the ſaid Manufacttre, ought to be very dear to us, which if we are not ſenſible of our ſelves, the French *King will teach us; who well underſtanding, not only wherein the intreſt of this Kingdom doth conſiſt, but how to ſupplant it for the advancement of his own, hath of late years uſed all Artifices, to acquire the makeing the ſaid Manufacture in his own Dominions with our Wooll; thereby drawing away the ſweet Sapp and Juyce from our Root, for the nouriſhment of a forreign Country, and endeavouring to ſtarve our own, in order to which, he labours to prevent the Importation of our Manufacture, either into his own or other Countries, and hath therefore laid divers Taxes upon it.*

Notwithſtanding which, and tho' the ſaid deſign doth obviouſly and manifeſtly appear, yet ſome are ſo ready to contribute to their Countries Ruine, as to argrgue for, defend, promote, and encourage the Tranſportatoin of Wooll.

Having therefore for many Years made it my Care to ſecure the Prohibition of the Exportation of Wooll, and been ready in all places to obviate the Deſignys of thoſe, who went about to enervate and alter the Laws made therein: I have ſpent much Time and Money in my Attendances both on the King and Council at every Seſſions of Parliament: where I have been conſtantly vigilent.

I have alſo humbly repreſented to His Excellency the Lord Livetenant of *Ireland* (now going thither) the miſchief of Tranſportation of *Irih* Wooll, which upon my Petition to His Majeſty is refer'd to His Excellencis Care which doth appear in Page the 12*th*.

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